(d) if so, revenue generated from these agreements; and

(e) the areas where these additional revenues would be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Department of Posts has entered into agreement with private and public sector organisations for retailing their financial services like distribution of mutual funds and micro-credit, electronic fund transfer and international money transfer. These arrangements have been done recently and the revenue earned by the department can be gauged only after sometime. Revenue so earned is credited to Government account.

Long distance service segment for competition

2617. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have accepted recommendations of TRAI on opening up of the international long distance service segment for competition;

(b) if so, what are the recommendations and the decision taken thereon; and

(c) what would be the over all impacat of this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have accepted the recommendations of TRAI on opening up of the international long distance service segment for competition. The details of the recommendations are given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(c) The introduction of competition in International Voice Traffic is expected to provide more efficient and better quality service at more affordable rates to the subscribers.

Statement

Important Details of recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for grant of licence for International Long Distance

- Unrestricted entry.
- All bearer services to be provided by the Licensee.
- Entry fee of Rs. 25 crores.

- Net worth of applicant company : Rs. 25 crores.
- Performance Bank guarantee of Rs. 25 crores.
- Annual Licence fee 15% of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR).
- Licence period of 20 years.
- Roll out obligations :
  - A minimum of four Points of Presence (POPs) *i.e.* one in each Region of the country *i.e.* Eastern, Western, Northern and Southern will need to be established within three years of signing the licence agreement.
  - Delivery of traffic to all the countries in the World to be ensured through atleast four Direct Routes *i.e.* one each to North America, Gulf Region, Europe and any one location in South East Asia, Far East and Oceania within three years of signing the licence agreement.
- Interconnection of International Long Distance (ILD) network : Access provider may be allowed to interconnect with the International Long Distance Operator (ILDO) directly in situations, where ILD Gateway switches and that of Access Provider's (GMSC/ Transit Switch) are located at the same station.
- Two types of Quality of Service (QoS) are permitted.

Calculation/Entry of interest of NSS Deposits

2618. SHRI RAJU PARMAR : Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that calculation/entry of interest on deposits made in NSS passbooks for the year ending March, 2001 has not been made even after a lapse of eight months after the closing of the year in Ghaziabad Post Office Circle;

(b) whether Government have received any complaint in this regard;

(c) if so, the action taken by Government so far; and

(d) the reasons for such delay and the action proposed to be taken by Government to rectify the situation ?